

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4473

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2565

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, ES, SHUM
SUBJECT: CALL BY PRESIDENT MOLINA

REFS: (A) STATE 098384, (B) SAN SALVADOR 2056, (C) STATE 105097

1. AMBASSADOR AND ARA/CEN DIRECTOR WADE MATTHEWS CALLED ON PRESIDENT MOLINA AT NOON MAY 27. ALSO PRESENT WAS MINDEF CASTILLO YANEZ.
2. MOLINA OPENED DISCUSSION BY TELLING MATTHEWS HOW HAPPY HE WAS THAT MATTHEWS WAS PRESENT BECAUSE HE WANTED THE USG TO KNOW HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATED THE FRANK DISCUSSIONS HE AND AMBASSADOR HAD ALWAYS HELD DURING AMBASSADOR'S TENURE IN EL SALVADOR, AND THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT IN ALL THEIR DISCUSSIONS THE AMBASSADOR WAS SPEAKING FOR THE USG. MATTHEWS THANKED THE PRESIDENT, STATING THAT IT WAS TRUE THAT ALL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS.
3. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MATTHEWS' VISIT WAS TO DELIVER TO MOLINA LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE, AT WHICH POINT LETTER WAS PRESENTED AND MOLINA READ SPANISH TRANSLATION PREPARED BY EMBASSY.
4. AT CONCLUSION OF READING, MATTHEWS LAUNCHED INTO DESCRIPTION OF HOW SERIOUSLY USG VIEWED RICHARDSON MATTER, AND THE WEDGE IT WOULD ALWAYS REPRESENT BETWEEN US IF IT
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WERE NOT RESOLVED. HE EXPRESSED USG'S HOPE THAT WE WOULD SOON HAVE RESULTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION. MOLINA REPLIED THAT HE KNEW ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS STILL INVESTIGATING AND GATHERING EVIDENCE, BUT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS AUTONOMOUS AND THERE WAS LITTLE HE - MOLINA - COULD DO TO HURRY UP PROCESS. MATTHEWS STATED THAT THEIR SYSTEM WAS SIMILAR TO OURS, BUT WAS SURE THAT GIVEN A BIT OF PRODDING

BY THE PRESIDENT, ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD GIVE IT HIGHEST PRIORITY. MOLINA THEN SUGGESTED THAT MATTHEWS OR EMBOFFS VISIT ATTORNEY

GENERAL TO GET A REPORT ON HIS PROGRESS.

AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT DCM AND HE HAD EACH MADE CALLS ON ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THAT THEIR IMPRESSION WAS THAT HE WAS NOT PRESSING INVESTIGATION AS VIGOROUSLY AS HE MIGHT, ADDING THAT WORD FROM PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE GREAT EFFECT. 5. MATTHEWS AND AMBASSADOR THEN WENT INTO MATTER OF MISTREATMENT OR DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS OF AMCITS, WITH AMBASSADOR RELATING SPECIFIC INSTANCES. MINDEF INJECTED HIS VIEW THAT ALL SECURITY FORCES HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO NOTIFY HIGHER AUTHORITIES WHEN FOREIGNERS WERE ARRESTED, BUT THAT SOMETIMES COMMUNICATIONS BROKE DOWN AND CAUSED DELAYS. AMBASSADOR URGED THAT ALL FORCES INVOLVED IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER OR IN IMMIGRATION MATTERS SHOULD BE TRAINED IN DEALING WITH FOREIGNERS, THAT IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION ALLOWING CONSULAR ACCESS IS REQUIRED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. BOTH MINDEF AND PRESIDENT AGREED. MINDEF MENTIONED A LETTER RECEIVED FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IN CASE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MARGARET KROMHOUT, THANKING GOES FOR FAIR TREATMENT RECEIVED DURING DETENTION FOLLOWING AUTO ACCIDENT EASTER WEEK. (NOTE: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THIS LETTER. MINDEF MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH EMBASSY HERE SENT TO FORMIN BORGONOVO AFTER CASE HAD BEEN MENTIONED ORALLY BY AMBASSADOR LOZANO). AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WAS DETAINED LONGER LLAN CALLED FOR, BECAUSE DUTY JUDGE WHO COULD HAVE AUTHORIZED HER RELEASE HAD TAKEN OFF FOR BEACH AND COULD NOT BE LOCATED. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. TO CONCLUDE USG PRESENTATION, MATTHEWS EMPHASIZED GENERAL USG CONCERN ON BROAD ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY IN EL SALVADOR BUT GLOBALLY. PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT NO ONE WAS MORE COMMITTED TO CAUSE OF HUMAN DIGNITY THAN HE, THAT EL SALVADOR HAD LONG HISTORY OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS, BEING FIRST NATION IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE TO OUTLAW SLAVERY. HE ADDED THAT GOES WAS VICTIM OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN DIRECTED FROM OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUBVERSIVES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN SALVADORAN SOCIETY, THAT THE ONLY WAY TO END THESE GREAT DISPARITIES WAS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT, AND MADE THE PLEA THAT USG NOT ARREST THIS DEVELOPMENT BY VOTING AGAINST LOANS BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. MATTHEWS REPLIED THAT, IN MATTER OF IDB LOAN FOR SAN LORENZO DAM, USG HAD URGED THAT GOES ITSELF REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE, AND THAT HE HOPED THAT IN A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS CONCERNS OVER RICHARDSON CASE, TREATMENT OF AMCITS AND GENERAL REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE RESOLVED BY GOES AND IDB LOAN COULD

BE APPROVED. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED OVER THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON TOURISM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT THESE PROBLEMS COULD HAVE, AND VOICED THE HOPE THAT THEY COULD SOON BE PUT BEHIND.

7 AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING REGRET THAT NEITHER HE NOR MATTHEWS WOULD SEE PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO, BUT HOPED THAT CHARGE OR NEXT AMBASSADOR COULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SAME ISSUES WITH HIM. PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT IF ROMERO RETURNED BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S JUNE 1 DEPARTURE, HE WOULD ARRANGE MEETING.

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